

## BOOK NOTICES

TAYLOR, RONALD J. 1992. *Sagebrush Country: A Wildflower Sanctuary*. (ISBN 0-87842-280-3, pbk). Mountain Press Publishing Company, P.O. Box 2399, Missoula, MT 59806. (800) 234-5308. \$12.00. 221 pp.

Looking for an attractive and authoritative introduction to the plants of the sagebrush-covered areas of the west? *Sagebrush Country* includes beautiful color photographs, taken in the field, of over 200 species, with several more being described in the text. In addition, the text covers topics such as habitat preferences and adaptations, pollinators and their behavior, and the origins of the scientific names. The writing is clear, with a minimum of technical terminology; anyone who has had a high school biology course should find it a useful and enjoyable introduction to the plants of an often neglected ecosystem. In doing so, they will become aware of plants as living organisms with diverse strategies for solving the problems of survival and reproduction, not just attractive additions to the landscape. This emphasis is enhanced by the introductory paragraphs in which Taylor discusses the major vegetation zones that occur within the sagebrush country and some of the animals that frequent it.

Some amateur botanists will be dismayed to find that the photographs are arranged according to family, not flower color. They should not panic, nor give up in dismay. Taylor provides a straightforward, almost non-technical, identification key to the approximately 50 families represented in his book. This, together with the glossary and illustrations of the basic terminology used to describe flowers, will enable most wild-plant enthusiasts to identify the plants they find. Investing this effort will bring additional rich rewards for it will open the door to the identification of an even wider range of plants. Those that still find a key intimidating will discover that perusing the pictures will quickly enable them to get on "first name" terms with the many colorful plants that grow in the sagebrush ocean of western North America. In so doing, they will appreciate why Taylor describes the sagebrush country area as a "wildflower sanctuary."—*Mary E. Barkworth*.

WHARTON, M. E. and R. W. BARBOUR. 1991. *Bluegrass Land and Life*. (ISBN 0-8131-1688-0, hbk). The University Press of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40508. \$40.00. 257 pp.

The Bluegrass region of Kentucky is that area in the north central part of the state underlain by Ordovician limestone. The 2400-square-mile *Inner* Bluegrass—30% of the whole and the subject of this book—centers irregularly on Lexington; it is the thoroughbred-horse country of the state. Wharton and Barbour, eminently qualified for the task, have produced a most admirable opus covering all aspects of the region. The parts of the book are "Geology and environmental history" (geological background, presettlement vegetation and animal life, early modifications of the presettlement ecosystems), "Habitats and natural community organization" (plant communities, habitats, and present status of vertebrates), "Annotated lists" of plants and animals, and "The future of the Bluegrass." Illustrations are various maps and 32 full-page, beautiful color plates of landscapes, plants, and animals. An extensive list of literature and a detailed index are included.—*John W. Thieret*.

WELCH, WILLIAM C. 1989. **Perennial Garden Color.** (ISBN 0-87833-628-1, hbk). Taylor Publishing Company, 1550 West Mockingbird Lane, Dallas, TX 75235. \$29.95. 268 pp.

This is an illustrated text on Perennial Gardens. There are over 500 beautiful color photographs. This guide gives detailed information on planting and growing 125 different perennials and more than 100 varieties of old garden roses. The book is a complete and comprehensive guide to planning and growing a beautiful and colorful garden of perennials of south. The text is divided into three parts. The first part describes the perennial garden. The second part discusses perennials of the past and present for the garden. The last part describes old garden roses and companion plants for the garden. There are an appendix, bibliography and index. This guide will be helpful for anyone interested in cottage gardening and landscaping with perennials.—*Krishna Puttaparthi.*

THE WORLD BANK. 1990. **Vetiver Grass. The Hedge against Erosion.** (ISBN 0-8213-1405-X, pbk). The World Bank, 1818 H Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20433. Price unknown. 78 pp.

This is a practical, pocket-size—but not pun-free—manual on use of the grass *Vetiveria zizanioides* as a hedge plant to control soil and water loss in tropical and subtropical areas. Having a dense root system that can grow to a depth of 3 meters and being able to withstand both drought and prolonged inundation, the plant is excellent for erosion control along contour lines in cultivated fields and on earth banks, dams, slopes, masonry terraces, roadsides, riverbanks, and canal walls. All one needs to know about growing, propagating, and using vetiver is in this book.—*John W. Thieret.*

BROSCHAT, TIMOTHY K. and ALAN W. MEEROW. 1991. **Betrock's Reference Guide to Florida Landscape Plants.** (ISBN 0-9629761-0-5, hbk). Betrock Information Systems, 1601 North Palm Avenue, Pembroke Pines, FL 33026. \$67.50 (including tax/shipping & handling). 428 pp.

In this book, horticultural characteristics of some 1200 taxa, alphabetically arranged by binomial, are given under 23 headings for each taxon (e.g., growth rate, salt tolerance, soil requirements, foliage color, flowering season, propagation, major problems, drought tolerance, nutritional requirements, light requirements, and 13 others). About one-fourth of the taxa are illustrated by photographs in largely excellent color, six photos per page. Most of the illustrations are helpful in identification, some less so, and a few not at all. An index is provided to synonyms and common names. Listings of drought- and salt-tolerant plants are included. Indicated in a closing list are plants causing "environmental problems" ("messy," "weak," "weedy," "invasive"). A fine source of concise information for Florida and other warm-area gardeners, the book will be of value also for visitors to Florida interested in identifying the cultivated plants they see.—*John W. Thieret.*

MEEROW, ALAN W. 1992. **Betrock's Guide to Landscape Palms.** (ISBN 0-9629761-1-3, hbk). Betrock Information Systems, 1601 North Palm Avenue, Pembroke Pines, FL 33026. \$34.70 (including tax/shipping & handling). 153 pp.

Meant for use throughout the tropics, and especially for Florida, California, and Hawaii, this is a concise guide to common horticultural palms. Section 1 covers 102 species, one per page. Given for each are one or more color photos, "Landscape characteristics," "Morphology (identifying characteristics)," "Comments," and sometimes "Other" or "Similar" species. Palms deserve to be illustrated well, and in this book they are. Section 2, also with many photos, considers what palms are and their growth, classification, conservation, and culture. It ends with a key based on vegetative features. Section 3 has several useful lists, e.g., drought-tolerant palms, palms that do well in shade, and growth forms. An index to common names and synonyms, a glossary, and a short bibliography close the book. Anyone interested in nature should find this splendid work a pleasure to look through; it is a must for anyone concerned with palms, "marvelous plants" as the author calls them. They are indeed.—*John W. Thieret.*

SCHULTES, RICHARD E. and ROBERT F. RAFFAUF. 1992. **Vine of the Soul.** (ISBN 0-907791-24-7, pbk). Synergetic Press, P.O. Box 689, Oracle, AZ 85623. \$22.95. 282 pp.

The title *Vine of the Soul* is a translation of an Indian word, *ayahuasca*, referring to the hallucinogenic liana *Banisteriopsis caapi*. The book, an outstanding photographic essay on Indian life, emphasizes the relationship between people and plants. Documenting the work are line drawings of plants and about 160 black-and-white, beautifully reproduced photos taken mostly by Dr. Schultes between 1941 and 1961. Explanatory text accompanies each illustration.

The main sections of the book are "Plants in cosmic communication" (hallucinogens); "Payés [shamans] in the community"; "Plants of secondary importance" (e.g., medicines, stimulants, fish poisons); "Indian beliefs"; "Sacred dances"; "Abodes of spirits" (e.g., forests, mountains, rivers, caves); "Birth and contraception"; "Art and architecture"; and "Hunting and fishing rituals and plants."

That this book—a partial record of Dr. Schultes' many years of work in South America—will be of value to ethnobotanists and anthropologists goes without saying. I recommend it too for *anyone* interested in our planet and its people. Kudos to Schultes for this and his two recent companion volumes, *The Healing Forest* and *Where the Gods Reign*, both also devoted to Amazonia. A classic trio.—*John W. Thieret.*

FOSTER, STEVEN. 1991. **Echinacea. Nature's Immune Enhancer.** (ISBN: 0-89281-386-5, pbk). Healing Arts Press, One Park Street, Rochester, VT 05767. \$7.95. 155 pp.

This book provides comprehensive information on the genus *Echinacea*. The text includes an introduction, the medicinal uses of *Echinacea* by the plains Indian, eclectic physicians, modern research and future potential, preparations, safety, risks vs. benefits, cultivation on the farm and in the garden, chemical constituents, its taxonomic history, characteristics of the genus, species identification and distribution and the need for conservation. It also provides sources of the plants

and seeds and emphasizes the importance of ethnobotanical conservation and the medicinal uses to treat certain infections and diseases. Included are a bibliography, an index and a few line drawings. This is a good reference for anyone interested in using herbs for medication.—*Krishna Puttaparthi*.

## ERRATUM

CHUNG, M.G. and J.W. KIM. 1990. The genus *Hosta* Tratt (Liliaceae) in Korea. Sida 14:411–420.

***Hosta venusta*** F. Maekawa, J. Jap. Bot. 11:245. 1935, is the correct name for *Hosta taquetii* (Levl. in Fedde) M. Chung & J. Kim comb. nov. (p. 415).

*Funkia subcordata* Sprengel var. *taquetii* Levl., Repert Spec. Nov. regni Veg. 9:322. 1911. TYPE: KOREA. PROV. CHE-JULDO. Che-ju Island, Mt. Hal-la, elev. ca. 1,700 m, 4 Aug 1910, Taquet 4047 (HOLOTYPE: E!).

*Hosta venusta* var. *decurrens* F. Maekawa, J. Jap. Bot. 13:897. 1937. TYPE: KOREA. PROV. CHE-JU-DO. Che-ju Island, Mt. Hal-la, elev. ca 1,500 m, 14 Aug 1912, *Isidoya* 32 (HOLOTYPE: TI!).

*Hosta taquetii* (Levl. in Fedde) M. Chung & J. Kim, Sida 14:415. 1990. BASIONYM: *Funkia subcordata* Sprengel var. *taquetii* Levl.

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